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**“Come, Let Us Reason Together” About the Bible**  
**Understanding Life’s Greatest Questions Through the Bible**  
**Bible Study Series**

*“Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the Lord, “Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool. (Isaiah 1:18)*

**LESSON SIX**

**When I Die, Will I Go to Heaven?**

Estimated Time to Read and Answer Questions: 7 – 11 minutes

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One of the deepest questions people ask, whether they say it out loud or not, is: ***What happens when I die?*** From the beginning of time, people have wondered about what’s beyond this life. It’s built into us, the curiosity, the fear, the hope. Is there peace? Is there judgment? Is there *anything* at all?

Thankfully, you don’t have to guess. God, through His inspired word, the Bible, gives clear answers. He tells about heaven, a glorious place beyond what you can imagine, and about hell, a place of eternal separation from Him. Scripture reveals that one day, this world as we know it will come to an end, and everyone will stand before Jesus to be judged. And at the heart of it all is a choice: to follow God and receive His promise of eternal life, or to reject Him and face everlasting consequences.

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**Let’s Talk About Heaven**

Heaven isn’t just a comforting idea or a poetic way to talk about peace. According to Scripture, it’s a real place, a permanent home that God has prepared for His people. Psalm 103:19 says, ***“The Lord has established His throne in heaven, and His kingdom rules over all.”*** Heaven is where God reigns completely, unlike this world where pain and rebellion are everywhere.

It’s from heaven that God sent Jesus, and it’s to heaven that those who follow Him long to return.

Jesus didn’t describe heaven like it was some vague spiritual realm. He spoke about it in personal terms. The night before His death, He told His disciples, ***“In My Father’s house are many mansions... I go to prepare a place for you” (John 14:2).*** That “house” is heaven. It’s a place of peace, of beauty, of rest, a place where God’s children will live with Him forever. The word “mansions” really means “dwelling places,” emphasizing that it’s not a temporary stop. It’s home.

The apostle John gives us an amazing picture of heaven in Revelation 21:4. He writes, ***“And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying... no more pain.”*** Can you imagine that? Every trial, every grief you’ve known, it will all be gone. Heaven is the complete fulfillment of every hope you’ve held onto.

The writers of the New Testament always pointed believers to heaven as the goal. Paul reminded the Philippians, ***“Our citizenship is in heaven...”*** (Philippians 3:20). In other words, it’s not just your final destination, it’s where you *belong*. Peter called our inheritance ***“incorruptible and undefiled and***

***that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you***” (1 Peter 1:4). That kind of promise isn’t earned by good behavior, it’s given through obedient faith in Christ.

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### **But Who Will Go There?**

Jesus made this very clear. In Matthew 7:21, He said, ***“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father..”*** It’s not just about saying the right words or claiming to believe, it’s about actually living in obedience to God.

John reinforces this in Revelation 22:14: ***“Blessed are those who do His commandments..”*** And the Bible lays out what that obedient life looks like:

- Hearing the gospel (Romans 10:17)
  - Believing in Jesus (John 8:24)
  - Repenting of sin (Acts 17:30)
  - Confessing Christ (Romans 10:10)
  - Being baptized for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38)
  - Remaining faithful until death (Revelation 2:10)
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### **What About Hell?**

As real and wonderful as heaven is, the Bible is just as clear, and just as serious, about hell. Jesus said in Matthew 25:46, ***“These will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”*** Hell isn’t temporary. It’s not a place people pass through. It’s final. It’s forever.

In fact, the word “hell” in the New Testament often comes from “Gehenna,” which was a valley near Jerusalem where trash and dead animals were burned. It was a place of constant fire and decay, Jesus used it to help us understand the horror of eternal punishment. Revelation 20:15 calls it the ***“lake of fire.”*** Jesus described it as ***“outer darkness”*** where ***“there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth”*** (Matthew 22:13). It’s complete separation from the presence and mercy of God.

It wasn’t made for you. Originally, hell was prepared for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41). But sadly, those who die outside of Christ will also go there. Paul writes in 2 Thessalonians 1:8 that God will come ***“in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel.”*** These people, Paul says, will be ***“punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord”*** (verse 9). That doesn’t mean they’ll be wiped out of existence, it means they’ll be cut off from everything good and holy.

Do not think hell is only for murderers or tyrants. Revelation 21:8 lists people like the cowardly, unbelieving, sexually immoral, liars, and idolaters right alongside the worst offenders. The point is: sin separates us from God. All sin, and without forgiveness through Christ, you will face judgment.

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## This World Won't Last Forever

Scripture also teaches that this world isn't permanent. One day, everything we see will be destroyed. Peter writes, ***"The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night... and the elements will melt with fervent heat"*** (2 Peter 3:10). This isn't just a spiritual metaphor. It's total destruction. God won't just fix the earth, He'll completely dissolve it.

And here's the thing: we won't get a warning. Jesus said, ***"Of that day and hour no one knows"*** (Matthew 24:36). Life will seem normal, people going to work, getting married, planning vacations, and then, suddenly, it'll be over. Just like in the days of Noah when people were caught off guard by the flood, the same will happen at the coming of the Son of Man (Matthew 24:38–39).

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## Everyone Will Be Judged

On that day, no one will be able to hide. Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5:10, ***"We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ..."*** Every deed, good or bad, will be brought to light. God's judgment will stand, even when the world is gone.

That means you have a choice to make, right now.

God doesn't force you to follow Him. But He wants us to be saved. Peter reminds us that ***"The Lord... is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance"*** (2 Peter 3:9). The choice is yours.

If you choose God, you will choose to obey His Son. Hebrews 5:9 says that Jesus is ***"the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him."*** Jesus Himself said, ***"If you love Me, keep My commandments"*** (John 14:15). When you do that, you won't have to fear what comes after death. Instead, you have the promise: ***"Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life"*** (Revelation 2:10).

But rejecting God, refusing to obey His commands, has eternal consequences. Jesus said in Mark 16:16, ***"He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."*** The book of Revelation gives the final word: ***"Anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire"*** (Revelation 20:15).

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So here's the question, and it's personal:

### **When I die, will I go to heaven?**

This isn't about feelings, family traditions, or what we *hope* is true. It's about how you respond to what *God* says in His word. His invitation is open, but it won't stay open forever.

***"Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve... But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."*** (Joshua 24:15)

## Questions to Confirm Understanding

*Estimated time to answer the questions: 5 - 8minutes; with scripture lookup:20 - 30 minutes*

**Answer the following questions by circling True | False. Look up the scripture references given to determine the answers, or refer back to the discussion. An answer key with explanations of the correct answers is provided below.**

1. **True | False** Heaven is described in the Bible as a real, eternal dwelling place prepared by God for His people. (Psalm 103:19)
2. **True | False** Jesus said He was going to prepare a place for His followers in His Father's house. (John 14:2)
3. **True | False** According to Revelation, there will still be pain and sorrow in heaven. (Revelation 21:4)
4. **True | False** Paul said that a Christian's true citizenship is in heaven. (Philippians 3:20)
5. **True | False** Heaven is a reward earned through good works alone. (1 Peter 1:4)
6. **True | False** Anyone who says "Lord, Lord" will enter the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 7:21)
7. **True | False** The Bible teaches that only those who do the will of the Father will enter heaven. (Matthew 7:21)
8. **True | False** Obedience to the gospel includes hearing, believing, repenting, confessing, being baptized, and remaining faithful. (Acts 2:38)
9. **True | False** Hell is described in the Bible as a temporary place of discipline. (Matthew 25:46)
10. **True | False** Jesus spoke of hell as a place of everlasting punishment. (Matthew 25:46)
11. **True | False** According to Revelation, the lake of fire is for those whose names are not in the Book of Life. (Revelation 20:15)
12. **True | False** Hell is described as outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (Matthew 22:13)
13. **True | False** God originally prepared hell as a place for all people who sin. (Matthew 25:41)
14. **True | False** People will be punished in hell because they did not know God or obey the gospel. (2 Thessalonians 1:8)
15. **True | False** The sins that lead to hell are always visible and public. (Revelation 21:8)

16. **True | False** The present heavens and earth will be destroyed on the day of the Lord. (2 Peter 3:10)
17. **True | False** Jesus said we can know exactly when He will return. (Matthew 24:36)
18. **True | False** Everyone will appear before the judgment seat of Christ to give an account of their lives. (2 Corinthians 5:10)
19. **True | False** God desires some people to perish so that others may be saved. (2 Peter 3:9)
20. **True | False** Eternal salvation is given to those who obey Jesus. (Hebrews 5:9)
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### Answer Key

*Estimated time to read the answers: 4 – 5 minutes; with reflection and contemplation: 15 - 20 minutes*

1. Heaven is described in the Bible as a real, eternal dwelling place prepared by God for His people. **True**  
*“The Lord has established His throne in heaven, and His kingdom rules over all.” (Psalm 103:19)*  
This verse affirms God's throne and rule from heaven, and the description of heaven as a real, eternal dwelling place is true.
2. Jesus said He was going to prepare a place for His followers in His Father's house. **True**  
*“In My Father's house are many mansions... I go to prepare a place for you.” (John 14:2)*  
Jesus personally promised His disciples that He was preparing a place for them in heaven, indicating its reality and intentional preparation.
3. According to Revelation, there will still be pain and sorrow in heaven. **False**  
*“And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying.” (Revelation 21:4)*  
Heaven is a place of complete comfort and peace, where former sufferings are gone forever.
4. Paul said that a Christian's true citizenship is in heaven. **True**  
*“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior.” (Philippians 3:20)*  
Believers belong not to this world but to the eternal kingdom of heaven.
5. Heaven is a reward earned through good works alone. **False**  
*“An inheritance incorruptible... reserved in heaven for you.” (1 Peter 1:4)*  
Heaven is an inheritance, not something earned by merit, but granted by grace through obedient faith.
6. Anyone who says “Lord, Lord” will enter the kingdom of heaven. **False**  
*“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven...” (Matthew*

7:21)

Verbal acknowledgment is not enough; obedience to God's will is essential.

7. The Bible teaches that only those who do the will of the Father will enter heaven. **True**  
*"...but he who does the will of My Father in heaven."* (Matthew 7:21)  
Jesus clearly teaches that entry into heaven depends on faithful obedience.
8. Obedience to the gospel includes hearing, believing, repenting, confessing, being baptized, and remaining faithful. **True**  
*"Repent... and be baptized... for the remission of sins."* (Acts 2:38)  
The plan of salvation is laid out in multiple scriptures and involves a series of faithful responses to the gospel.
9. Hell is described in the Bible as a temporary place of discipline. **False**  
*"And these will go away into everlasting punishment..."* (Matthew 25:46)  
Hell is eternal and not a temporary place or corrective experience.
10. Jesus spoke of hell as a place of everlasting punishment. **True**  
*"...but the righteous into eternal life."* (Matthew 25:46)  
Just as heaven is eternal, so is hell, both are final, everlasting destinies.
11. According to Revelation, the lake of fire is for those whose names are not in the Book of Life. **True**  
*"Anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire."* (Revelation 20:15)  
Only those who belong to Christ and have obeyed His word will avoid this eternal punishment.
12. Hell is described as outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. **True**  
*"Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness..."* (Matthew 22:13)  
This vivid imagery illustrates the horror and isolation of hell.
13. God originally prepared hell as a place for all people who sin. **False**  
*"...prepared for the devil and his angels."* (Matthew 25:41)  
While sinners will go there if they reject Christ, hell was originally prepared for rebellious angels.
14. People will be punished in hell because they did not know God or obey the gospel. **True**  
*"Taking vengeance on those who do not know God... or obey the gospel."* (2 Thessalonians 1:8)  
Knowledge of God and obedience to the gospel are both necessary for salvation.

15. The sins that lead to hell are always visible and public. **False**  
*"...and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire..." (Revelation 21:8)*  
Even seemingly minor or hidden sins can result in condemnation if unrepented.
16. The present heavens and earth will be destroyed on the day of the Lord. **True**  
*"The heavens will pass away with a great noise... the earth and the works... burned up." (2 Peter 3:10)*  
This total destruction marks the end of the material world and ushers in judgment.
17. Jesus said we can know exactly when He will return. **False**  
*"But of that day and hour no one knows... but My Father only." (Matthew 24:36)*  
The return of Christ will be unexpected and unknowable in advance.
18. Everyone will appear before the judgment seat of Christ to give an account of their lives. **True**  
*"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ..." (2 Corinthians 5:10)*  
Judgment is universal and based on each person's deeds in life.
19. God desires some people to perish so that others may be saved. **False**  
*"Not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9)*  
God desires the salvation of all people and delays judgment to give time for repentance.
20. Eternal salvation is given to those who obey Jesus. **True**  
*"He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him." (Hebrews 5:9)*  
Obedience is essential for receiving the promise of eternal life through Christ.
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